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Under the Wazīr Wazārat are *tahsīldārs* and sometimes subdivisional officers. All these officers exercise revenue, civil, and criminal jurisdiction, with regular stages of appeal. In revenue cases the appeal lies to the governor, and from him to the revenue minister. In civil and criminal judicial cases the appeal lies to the Chief Judge of Jammu. From him there is an appeal to the judicial minister, who is virtually the final court, and it is only on rare occasions that an appeal is made from him to the Mahārājā. All death sentences passed by the Chief Judge require the confirmation of the Mahārājā. In 1900–1 there were eighty-one courts of all grades, of which

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eight exercised criminal jurisdiction only. Although there is a centralized form of government as in British India, the real power rests with the *tahsīldār*, and distance and the absence of easy communications are practically checks on the use or abuse of appeals.

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Before 1892, when the law of limitation was introduced into Jammu, litigation was not very heavy and the people frequently settled their differences out of court. The improvement in the courts, and the effects of this alteration in the law, are shown by the fact that the number of suits for money or movable property increased from an average of 3,735 during the ten years ending 1890 to 10,766 in the next decade, and was 12,160 in 1900–1. The system of registration for deeds resembles that in British India. In 1900–1 the number of documents registered was 1,348.

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Crime is not serious in the Jammu province; but there has been an increase in cases of theft, hurt, and mischief, due to the greater activity of the police force, which is being gradually assimilated to the rules and procedure prevailing in British India. In the whole State 17,320 persons were brought to trial in 1900–1, of whom 2,169, or 13 per cent., were convicted.

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In Kashmīr the *tahsīls* in the valley are superintended by the governor himself, while those of the Muzaffarābād district are in charge of a Wazīr Wazārat subject to the governor and the Chief Judge, whose offices are in Srīnagar.

652 **Finance.**

The finances of the State are immediately controlled by an accountant-general, who for some years has been lent by the British Government. The revenue and expenditure for 1895–6, 1900–1, and 1905–6 are shown in tables at the end of this article (pp. 84–5). In the last year the total revenue was 93 lakhs, the chief items being land revenue (38·9 lakhs), forests (13 lakhs), customs and octroi (9·2 lakhs), and scientific and minor departments (2·2 lakhs). The expenditure of one crore included

State some measures vital to the advancement of the people, such as the Prevention of Infant Marriage Regulation, raising the age of consent to 14 for girls and 18 for boys and the stoppage of female infanticide amongst Rajputs and prohibition of juvenile smoking. Many of the improvements in trade, industry, communications, education, irrigation, sanitation etc. which have already been dealt with owe their origin to his solicitude to see his subjects happy and prosperous.

The administration is conducted by His Highness through Ministers (now headed by a Prime Minister) who enjoy large powers in their respective portfolios. His Highness has followed a policy of decentralization of powers in all branches of administration consistent with efficiency and good Government.

31. Courts.—The stability and growth of society hinges to a large extent on the efficient and speedy administration of justice through the channel of Judicial Courts and on the enactment of laws conducive to the welfare of the masses. The Census Report is not the proper place to record an account of the various salutary laws passed during the decade as the space is naturally limited and no justice can be done to the subject. As regards the Judicial system of the State it is modelled on the British Indian system of administration of justice with certain important differences such as the exercise of civil and criminal jurisdiction by the same judicial officers and the facilities allowed to litigants to appear personally in the High Court to plead their case. The separation for which a vigorous and persistent demand exists in British India is already in operation here.

The decade has witnessed the formation of a High Court Bench consisting of a Chief Justice and two Judges in supersession of the former system of a single Chief Justice of the High Court. His Highness takes a personal interest in the selection of Judges who can consequently compare favourably with their compeers in British India. The judiciary in the subordinate courts is recruited from amongst qualified hands who are either barristers or graduates of law.

The total number of Courts has increased as will be seen in the margin.

	Number of Courts.	
	1921.	1931.
Civil Courts ..	50	64
Criminal Courts ..	122	127
Revenue ,, exercising criminal powers ..	88	87
Lawyers including Advocates ..	173	177

The number of suits disposed in 1931 comes to 21,904 while the suits filed number 20,641 which is a sure proof of the fact that justice is not deferred but promptly administered. Moreover the spirit of litigation seems on the decline as the number of suits filed in 1921 was 23,009. The expenditure of the Judicial Department has risen from Rs. 510,938 in 1921 to Rs. 648,246 in 1930. The highest expenditure was incurred in 1928 when it came to Rs. 733,302. The total cost of administration of justice for the decade is Rs. 7,008,725.

32. Police.—The decade has witnessed the augmentation of the Police Force in all ranks and a rise in the status and emoluments of these custodians of public peace and safety. The diagram in the margin will convince the reader of the rapid progress made in the State in this direction. The Executive and the Clerical Staff was separated. The total cost of Police Force in 1930 was Rs. 712,588 compared to Rs. 414,621 in 1920, giving an increase of 71·8 per cent. As regards offences, those against State and public tranquility, murders and other offences against person exhibited an increase, while

	1931
Inspector-General of Police ..	1
Deputy Inspector-General of Police ..	2
Superintendents of Police ..	7
Assistant Superintendents of Police ..	6
Inspectors ..	16
Sub-Inspectors ..	30
Head Constables ..	227
Constables ..	2,477